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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 13 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: **Notice of Oral Ex Parte Presentation**
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 5 and 6, 2003, representatives of the Rural Cellular Association ("RCA") met with FCC Commissioners and staff and discussed concerns of rural and small market wireless carriers regarding preservation of access to high cost support by competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers from the federal Universal Service Fund.

Various meetings with RCA were conducted by the following Commissioners and staff:

The Hon. Kathleen Abernathy and Jennifer Manner

The Hon. Kevin Martin and Sam Feder

The Hon. Jonathan Adelstein, Lisa Zaina and Barry Ohlson

R. Paul Margie, Legal Advisor to The Hon. Michael J. Copps

Jane Mago, Chief, Office of Strategic Planning, and Sarah Whitesell, Associate Chief

Carol Matthey, Eric N. Einhorn and Narda Jones, Wireline Competition Bureau

John Muleta, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, John Branscome, Wayne A. Leighton, Eugenie Barton, Jennifer Salhus and Uzoma Onyeije of the Wireless

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
May 6, 2003
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Telecommunications Bureau

The following members or representatives of RCA participated in some or all of the meetings:

John McMillan, North Carolina RSA #3 Cellular Telephone d/b/a Carolina West Cellular
Arthur L. Prest, Alpine PCS, Inc. and RFB Cellular, Inc.
Tom Attar, Highland Cellular
Gary Christopherson, Midwest Wireless Holdings, LLC
David L. Nace and David A. LaFuria, Lukas, Nace, Gutierrez & Sachs, Chtd.

During the meetings RCA representatives requested continuation of the current system that provides for USF support to qualified wireless carriers. USF support permits wireless carriers to construct cell sites in areas where sites would not otherwise be feasible. Rural infrastructure improvements promote rural area economic development and allow rural residents to have telecommunications services comparable to those available in urban areas.

RCA representatives opposed addition of equal access to the list of core services a wireless carrier must provide in order to be designated an ETC. Consumers will not benefit by adding equal access to the list of core service, and wireless carriers' access to USF support will be impeded or prevented.

Very truly yours,



David L. Nace

cc: The Hon. Kathleen Abernathy and Jennifer Manner
The Hon. Kevin Martin and Sam Feder
The Hon. Jonathan Adelstein, Lisa Zaina and Barry Ohlson
R. Paul Margie, Legal Advisor to The Hon. Michael J. Copps
Jane Mago, Chief, Office of Strategic Planning, and Sarah Whitesell, Associate Chief
Carol Matthey, Eric N. Einhorn and Narda Jones, Wireline Competition Bureau
John Muleta, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, John Branscome, Wayne A. Leighton, Eugenie Barton, Jennifer Salhus and Uzoma Onyeije of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau